What is claimed is:

1   1. A method for alerting a calling party of a delay
2   before an incoming call will be answered by a user of a
3   called telecommunication terminal, comprising the steps of:
4   answering the incoming call by the
5   telecommunication terminal in response to an input from the
6   user when the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in
7   another call;
8   muting an audio path of the answered call from
9   communication with the user; and
10   transmitting a message that is selected by the user
11   to the calling party.

1   2. The method of claim 1 further comprises the
2   step of maintaining the incoming call from the calling party
3   with the audio path muted to the user; and
4   allowing audio communication by the user with
5   calling party in response to another input from the user.

1   3. The method of claim 1 further comprises the
2   step of terminating the incoming call after transmission of the
3   message.

1   4. The method of claim 1 wherein the message is
2   an audio message and the audio message is transmitted via
3   the audio path to the calling party.

1   5. The method of claim 4 further comprises the
2   steps of receiving a time specifying the delay; and

3   inserting the time into a predefined message.

1   6. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of

2 inserting comprises converting the time to audio information

3 for insertion into the predefined message.

1   7. The method of claim 6 further comprises the

2 step of recording the predefined message.

1   8. The method of claim 1 wherein the message is a

2 text message.

1   9. The method of claim 8 further comprises the

2 steps of receiving a time specifying the delay; and

3   inserting the time into a predefined message.

1   10. The method of claim 8 wherein the

2 transmission of the text message is via a text messaging link.

1   11. The method of claim 9 further comprises the

2 step of entering the predefined message.

1   12. A method for alerting a calling party of a delay

2 before an incoming call will be answered by a user of a

3 called wireless handset, comprising the steps of:

4   answering the incoming call by the wireless

5 handset in response to one of at least an input from the user

6 or a predefined amount of movement of the wireless handset

7 when the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in

8 another call;

9   muting an audio path of the answered call from

10   communication with the user; and

11   transmitting a message that is selected by the user

12   to the calling party.

1   13. The method of claim 12 further comprises the

2   step of maintaining the incoming call from the calling party

3   with the audio path muted to the user; and

4   allowing audio communication by the user with

5   calling party in response to another input from the user.

1   14. The method of claim 12 further comprises the

2   step of terminating the incoming call after transmission of the

3   message.

1   15. The method of claim 12 wherein the message

2   is an audio message and the audio message is transmitted

3   via the audio path to the calling party.

1   16. The method of claim 15 further comprises the

2   steps of receiving a time specifying the delay; and

3   inserting the time into a predefined message.

1   17. The method of claim 16 wherein the step of

2   inserting comprises converting the time to audio information

3   for insertion into the predefined message.

1   18. The method of claim 17 further comprises the

2   step of recording the predefined message.

1   19. The method of claim 12 wherein the message

2   is a text message.

1   20. The method of claim 19 further comprises the

2 steps of receiving a time specifying the delay; and

3   inserting the time into a predefined message.

1   21. The method of claim 19 wherein the

2 transmission of the text message is via a text messaging link.

1   22. The method of claim 20 further comprises the

2 step of entering the predefined message.

1   23. A method for alerting a calling party of a delay

2 before an incoming call will be answered by a user of a

3 called telecommunication terminal, comprising the steps of:

4   transmitting a message to a wireless switching

5 system in response to the incoming call by the

6 telecommunication terminal in response to an input from the

7 user when the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in

8 another call;

9   transmitting by the wireless switching system a

10 message that is selected by the user to the calling party; and

11   placing the incoming call on hold by the wireless

12 switching system.

1   24. The method of claim 23 further comprises the

2 step of taking the incoming call off of hold and establishing

3 audio communication between the user and calling party in

4 response to another input from the user.

1   25. The method of claim 23 further comprises the

2 step of terminating the incoming call after transmission of the

3   message.

1   26. The method of claim 23 wherein the message

2   is an audio message and the audio message is transmitted

3   via a voice messaging system.

1   27. The method of claim 26 further comprises the

2   steps of receiving a time specifying the delay; and

3   inserting the time into a predefined message.

1   28. The method of claim 27 wherein the step of

2   inserting comprises converting the time to audio information

3   for insertion into the predefined message.

1   29. The method of claim 28 further comprises the

2   step of recording the predefined message by the user.

1   30. The method of claim 23 wherein the message

2   is a text message.

1   31. The method of claim 30 further comprises the

2   steps of receiving a time specifying the delay; and

3   inserting the time into a predefined message.

1   32. The method of claim 30 wherein the

2   transmission of the text message is via a text messaging link.

1   33. The method of claim 31 further comprises the

2   step of entering the predefined message.

1   34. A processor-readable medium for alerting a

2   calling party of a delay before an incoming call will be

3   answered by a user of a called wireless handset, comprising

4   processor-executable instructions configured for:

5   answering the incoming call by the wireless

6   handset in response to one of at least an input from the user

7   or a predefined amount of movement of the wireless handset

8   when the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in

9   another call;

10   muting an audio path of the answered call from

11   communication with the user; and

12   transmitting a message that is selected by the user

13   to the calling party.

1   35. The processor-readable medium of claim 34

2   further comprises maintaining the incoming call from the

3   calling party with the audio path muted to the user; and

4   allowing audio communication by the user with

5   calling party in response to another input from the user.

1   36. The processor-readable medium of claim 34

2   further comprises terminating the incoming call after

3   transmission of the message.

1   37. The processor-readable medium of claim 34

2   wherein the message is an audio message and the audio

3   message is transmitted via the audio path to the calling

4   party.

1   38. The processor-readable medium of claim 37

2   further comprises receiving a time specifying the delay; and

3   inserting the time into a predefined message.

1   39. The processor-readable medium of claim 38

2 wherein the inserting comprises converting the time to audio

3 information for insertion into the predefined message.

1   40. The processor-readable medium of claim 39

2 further comprises recording the predefined message.

1   41. The processor-readable medium of claim 34

2 wherein the message is a text message.

1   42. The processor-readable medium of claim 41

2 further comprises receiving a time specifying the delay; and

3   inserting the time into a predefined message.

1   43. The processor-readable medium of claim 41

2 wherein the transmission of the text message is via a text

3 messaging link.

1   44. The processor-readable medium of claim 42

2 further comprises entering the predefined message.

1   45. A processor-readable medium for alerting a

2 calling party of a delay before an incoming call will be

3 answered by a user of a called telecommunication terminal,

4 comprising processor-executable instructions configured for:

5   transmitting a message to a wireless switching

6 system in response to the incoming call by the

7 telecommunication terminal in response to an input from the

8 user when the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in

9 another call;

10   transmitting by the wireless switching system a

11   message that is selected by the user to the calling party; and

12   placing the incoming call on hold by the wireless

13   switching system.

1   46. The processor-readable medium of claim 45

2   further comprises taking the incoming call off of hold and

3   establishing audio communication between the user and

4   calling party in response to another input from the user.

1   47. The processor-readable medium of claim 45

2   further comprises terminating the incoming call after

3   transmission of the message.

1   48. The processor-readable medium of claim 45

2   wherein the message is an audio message and the audio

3   message is transmitted via a voice messaging system.

1   49. The processor-readable medium of claim 48

2   further comprises receiving a time specifying the delay; and

3   inserting the time into a predefined message.

1   50. The processor-readable medium of claim 49

2   wherein the inserting comprises converting the time to audio

3   information for insertion into the predefined message.

1   51. The processor-readable medium of claim 50

2   further comprises recording the predefined message by the

3   user.

1   52. The processor-readable medium of claim 45

2   wherein the message is a text message.

1　　　　　53. The processor-readable medium of claim 52

2　further comprises receiving a time specifying the delay; and

3　　　　　　　inserting the time into a predefined message.

1　　　　　54. The processor-readable medium of claim 52

2　wherein the transmission of the text message is via a text

3　messaging link.

1　　　　　55. The processor-readable medium of claim 53

2　further comprises entering the predefined message.

1　　　　　56. An apparatus for alerting a calling party of a

2　delay before an incoming call will be answered by a

3　communication terminal, comprising:

4　　　　　　means for detecting the incoming call while the

5　communication terminal is not engaged in another call;

6　　　　　　means for detecting movement of the

7　communication terminal; and

8　　　　　　means for transmitting a message to the calling

9　party upon detection of the incoming call and movement.

1　　　　　57. The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the means

2　for transmitting comprises means for sending a textual

3　message.

1　　　　　58. The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the means

2　for transmitting comprises means for sending a textual

3　message.

1　　　　　59. An apparatus for implementing the steps of

2　claim 1.

1   60. An apparatus for implementing the steps of

2   claim 12.